

USDA TRIBAL LEADER NUTRITION ROUNDTABLE

Hosted by USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE, MOUNTAIN PLAINS REGION  
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005; Journey Museum - Gallery, Rapid City, South Dakota

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GEORGIA BARRAS: I have a letter that was fax'd from the tribe and it was a last minute thing, and that's one of the things I think with food distribution programs, we have trouble getting the tribal leaders to support the program, because they don't see the importance that we do as workers. I feel that we are -- and part of the problem is just like was mentioned was the funding. I know with our program, for this year we did take an 18,000 cut. And when I talked with the regional office, they said it was not, and I said well, it was black and white, we had to redo our budget that was submitted and that did, you know, take a chunk out of our operation. Also with the nutrition education, I'm with nutrition education for the Western Region, and I think it's important that you know we try to work together and formulate for all Food Distribution Programs with extra assistance towards meeting the goals of the nutrition.

And there is a lot of the smaller programs and to the larger, we don't really have access to nutrition and staff or working with the Indian Health Services, you know. They have a caseload already with WIC or the tribal WIC program and things. And also, we have, with our program we've had a community garden that's been going for eleven years now, and it has been growing with the community, and we have the roto tiller and things that we loan out to the tribal members and they can start doing their own gardening. We work with the extension office which helps support with money with their expertise. And also we work with the boys and girls clubs and that's just been established for two years. And they come over to help with us, too. But I think we have a lot of programs that have people that's been working there for many years. You are looking at ten or twenty years, and for the Nez Perce Tribe, it's been since January of 1971, and we do have a satellite office that's an hour drive and that started in May, and it's still in production.

We have an average of individual rate of 708, so we are getting like families and individuals. One of the things that we've been seeing a lot more of is, we have a lot of people that are moving to the area or they're living in campers next to like my neighbor, I am going to go move in, can I stay in your back yard. And it's hard to verify, and then there is zero income. And you know if we had better ways of tracking, you know, do they really have zero income, without just going, yeah, we can go to their house. But you know, we want to have that ability to have their ways of tracking it. I hate to say that, but after Lyle Jack mentioned that, because it was one of the treaty rights for the Indians, but we still have the program and we have the eligibility requirements that we have to meet, and it's to make sure that we are meeting them. I think it would be nice to have better ways of dealing with that. The letter I did bring, they did fax it, and I hand-carried the hard copy. So, do I just turn that in to you?

DARLENE BARNES: Yes. Thank you.